

November 9, 2011

To: NITC Commissioners
From: Anne Byers
Subject: eHealth Council Report

Progress Reports. The most recent State HIE Progress Report and metrics are included in the meeting materials.

Audit. The State Auditor's Office will begin an audit of the State HIE Cooperative Agreement on Nov. 14. The State Auditor's Office is required to audit recipients of federal grants meeting a certain threshold of expenditures.

Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII). NeHII has continued to expand. Currently over 30 hospitals are either actively exchanging data through NeHII or have signed participation agreements to join NeHII. When all of these hospital connections are implemented, nearly two-thirds of the state's hospital beds will be covered by NeHII.

Immunization Registry. NeHII has been working with the Division of Public Health to exchange data with the State's immunization registry. The project has three phases. Phase I, in which data from a physician using NeHII's electronic health record is uploaded to the immunization registry, is in the final stages of testing.

Electronic Behavioral Health Information Network (eBHIN). eBHIN has gone live in Southeast Nebraska with its electronic health record system and data upload to Magellan, the Administrative Services Organization that manages behavioral health services for the State of Nebraska. The health information exchange application will go live in early 2012. Region I in the Panhandle is implementing an electronic health record system with funding from the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) and will go live with the HIE shortly after Region V. eBHIN is working with other regions on plans to expand participation statewide.

eBHIN and NeHII have developed an innovative approach to managing consent for the release of behavioral health information to allow for the exchange of information between the two entities.

Evaluation. The eHealth Council, with assistance from a small work group, has developed a framework for evaluating the State HIE Cooperative Agreement. The Office of the CIO is beginning the process of contracting with an evaluator.

Direct. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT has developed protocols for secure messaging for health information. These protocols are called the Direct Project. NeHII is planning a

pilot project to use Direct to deliver laboratory results to physicians. NeHII is exploring other uses for Direct. For example, physicians could use Direct to send lab results or care summary information to patients who could then upload this information to a personal health record.